

# Benefit on two homes



*Number 11 in a series of benefit information leaflets.*

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# Benefit on two homes

**Occasionally you may be liable to pay rent on two properties at the same time, for example when you are moving home. If you already get Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, in some special circumstances you could receive benefit on two homes.**

*This leaflet is part of a series (illustrated opposite) produced by a group of local authorities to help make Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit easier to understand.*

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## **When could benefit be paid on two homes?**

**We can consider paying benefit on two homes in the following circumstances:**

- you are in fear of violence;
- you are students or trainees;
- you are a large family;
- there is an unavoidable overlap while moving.

### **Fear of violence**

If you have left your home through fear of violence by a member or former member of your family, we can pay benefit for up to a maximum of 52 weeks.

We can pay this benefit only if we consider you have reasonable cause to move home.

You must intend to return to your original home.

### **Students/trainees**

We can pay benefit on two homes if you or your partner is a student or on a training course and entitled to benefit and it is:

- unavoidable that you need to have two homes;
- reasonable in the circumstances that benefit should be paid on two homes.

There is no time limit on the payment, as long as we are satisfied that the occupation of two homes is unavoidable.

### **Large families**

If we have housed your family in two separate properties because of the size of the family, we will treat you as occupying both properties as your home and we will pay benefit on both. Both homes must have been provided, but not necessarily owned, by the council.

If you find one or both of your properties through the private sector, benefit can be paid on only one home.

### ***Unavoidable overlap while moving home***

If you have taken on the tenancy of a new home but cannot move out of your current home straight away, you may be able to receive benefit on both homes if:

- we consider that the delay in moving is reasonable;
- the new home is being adapted because you or a member of your family is disabled;
- you are disabled and are waiting for a Social Fund Loan from the Benefits Agency;
- you are a pensioner and are waiting for a Social Fund Loan from the Benefits Agency;
- you have a child aged under six and are waiting for a Social Fund Loan from the Benefits Agency;
- you are currently an in-patient in hospital or living in a residential care home while waiting to take up your new tenancy.

We can pay benefit for a maximum of four weeks in these situations.

### ***Making a claim for benefit on two homes***

Contact the Benefits Office as soon as possible. Write to us or phone us for a claim form (contact details are on the back of this leaflet).

## Other formats

This leaflet is also available in large print, Braille, on audio cassette and in other languages. Please contact us if you need this leaflet in one of these formats.

*This leaflet gives basic advice and is a general guide. If you have a question which is not answered in this leaflet, or if you want more advice, please contact us.*

Participating authorities: Broxbourne, Dacorum, Hertsmere, Ipswich, Lincoln City, North Herts, St Albans, Stevenage, Three Rivers and Welwyn & Hatfield.



## ***Information***

### **Council contact details**

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